FBIS DAILY REPORT

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FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE HOLDS IMPORTANT MEETING

JN151758Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1700 GMT 15 Aug 78 JN

[Text] The Central Committee of the Palestinian national liberation movement, Fatah, last night held an important meeting that lasted until early this morning.

The Central Committee studied current developments on the Palestinian, Arab and world arenas and reviewed the outcome of the Fatah delegation's visit to Moscow. The conferees also discussed the results of the Latakia summit between brother Abu 'Ammar and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and discussed in detail the current grave developments in the Palestinian and Arab ranks. Important decisions were adopted in this respect.

The Central Committee dealt with and approved the working paper in regard to Palestinian national unity. The Central Committee will present this working paper to the PLO Central Council, the PLO Executive Committee and the other factions of the Palestinian resistance.

PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL REPORTEDLY TO MEET IN DAMASCUS

JN151950Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--In a statement published in Damascus today, Palestine National Council President Khalid al-Fahum announced that the PLO Central Council will hold a meeting within a week in the Syrian capital. He said that the council will discuss the current situation in the Palestinian and Arab arenas.

'ARAFAT MEETS WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT

JN151755Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1700 GMT 15 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, today met with Soviet Ambassador Comrade Aleksandr Soldatov in the Soviet Embassy in Beirut. During the meeting, which lasted 2 and 1/2 hours, a detailed discussion was held on the current situation on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels, as well as the grave developments in the Palestinian and Arab arenas.

SAUDI ARABIA

ARAB LEAGUE'S RIYAD WELCOMES U.S. ROLE FOR CAMP DAVID TALKS

LD151108Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0935 GMT 15 Aug 78 LD

[Text] At-Ta'if, 15 Aug--Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad has stressed that the kingdom is playing "a very constructive" role for Arab unity and that its efforts in this direction are deeply appreciated and needed in the present critical phase which the Arab nation is experiencing. The Arab League secretary general referred to the recent tour by Prince Fahd, crown prince and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, to a number of Arab countries and said that this tour in itself had a good effect. He stressed that the continuity and the following up of the efforts by Prince Fahd are bound to have good results.

Mahmud Riyad, in an interview with the SAUDI NEWS AGENCY today, dealt with the dimensions of his current tour of the kingdom and of a number of Arab countries with the aim of continuing the efforts being exerted for Arab solidarity. He said that he was bound to commence his tour by visiting the kingdom and to have the honor to meet King Khalid, Prince Fahd and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, especially following the tours which the prince made to a number of Arab countries to bolster Arab solidarity and eliminate existing differences.

Mahmud Riyad spoke about the achievements of the Arab Solidarity Committee under the chairmanship of Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri and said: The committee has to some extent been able to prepare the atmosphere for Arab solidarity but has not ended the existing differences. The secretary general of the Arab League called on the parties to the dispute to discuss their differences in a practical and constructive manner. He said: differences between brothers are legitimate and normal, but what is not acceptable is that these differences should produce a situation harmful to the Arab and Islamic nation.

He expressed his sorrow for the devastation to the achievements of the Lebanese people in Lebanon, a matter which only benefits the Israeli enemy. He said that Israel in fact is the only power gaining from all Arab disputes. He said that he will be continuing efforts during his tour with members of the Arab Solidarity Committee for the continuation of the dialog especially now that there is an invitation by Sudan to convene the next Arab League Council in Khartoum instead of its headquarters in Cairo. He stressed the need for an understanding about the main points to be debated at the meeting.

Mahmud Riyad stressed the significance of the U.S. role at the Camp David summit conference which seeks to reach a framework for a just peace in the Middle East. He said: The United States has a large, influential role on the Palestinian issue and the existing conflicts in the Middle East. He called on the United States to take an effective attitude to end the causes for fighting and tension in the region and to carry out serious endeavors to restore Arab rights. He said: All the Arab countries during the Rabat summit conference had offered peace and had spoken of their readiness to work for peace on the basis of Israel's withdrawal and the restoration of all legitimate rights to the Palestinian people.

KUWAITI OIL MINISTER ENDS TALKS, LEAVES FOR HOME

LD160940Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 16 Aug 78 LD

[Text] At-Ta'if, 16 Aug--Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah, Kuwaiti oil minister, this morning left At-Ta'if for home after a short visit to the kingdom. During his visit he had talks with Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, on coordination of cooperation between the kingdom and Kuwait in the oil sphere. Shaykh Yamani saw the Kuwaiti oil minister off at At-Ta'if Airport.

UAE

MINISTER RECEIVES U.S. AMBASSADOR, BRIEFED ON MIDEAST ISSUES

JN151715Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 August--Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, received this morning Franccis Dickman, U.S. ambassador to the UAE.

In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY following the meeting, the ambassador said that he had briefed the minister on the preparations made for the Camp David meeting which will be held on 5 September. He also informed him about the results of the recent tour of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in the Middle East.

PRESS COMMENTS ON UPCOMING CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

JN160726Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0615 GMT 16 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 August--In its editorial today the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD comments on the statements made by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in which he said that his government is drafting a declaration of principles on the Middle East, that Egypt and Israel have agreed to certain elements in this declaration and that the Palestinian people's issue and the Israeli withdrawal will be the crux of the Camp David talks. The paper says that what Vance really wanted to say is that nothing has been agreed upon.

The paper empnasizes that the Israeli withdrawal from all fronts, the future of the Palestinian people and the issue of secure borders are the crucial elements in the crisis.

The paper explains: If we exclude the element of "secure borders," a real controversy remains over the other two issues for dialog at Camp David, namely, the Palestinian people's rights and the Israeli withdrawal from all fronts.

The paper believes that Israel will not respond to requests on these two issues and points out in this connection what Begin said yesterday, namely, that the shelving of the five new settlements on the West Bank was done for psychological reasons only.

The newspaper AL-FAJR in its editorial discusses the support for convening the Camp David summit. It says that while this support is due to U.S. participation in the summit, what is more important is that Europe should play a positive role in order to make the conference succeed and thus achieve peace.

The paper also discusses the importance of the Middle East for Europe, saying that the European states and the United States should put strong pressure on Israel to abandon its expansionist ideas.

Concluding its editorial, AL-FAJR says that it is possible that the conference will fail because of the Israeli stand and this failure would lead to a real catastrophe for all states of the West.

YEMEN--YAR

PDRY NAVAL UNITS VIOLATE YAR'S TERRITORIAL WATERS

JN151805Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Aug 78 JN

[Text] An official spokesman for the Foreign Ministry has told SABA' NEWS AGENCY that the General Staff Command of the armed forces has announced that four naval units belonging to the southern part [of Yemen] are violating the territorial waters of the Yemen Arab Republic. The last violation took place at 1500 yesterday, Monday 14 August 1978.

The official spokesman announced that the recurrence of such violations would create a serious situation in the area. He further said that the Yemen Arab Republic reserves the right to defend its territorial integrity against these violations, regardless of their sources. He added that the YAR has officially submitted a complaint regarding these violations to the Arab League.

AL-GHANI COMMENTS ON YAR'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

JN152000Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani has stated that relations between the two parts of Yemen--as the sons of one homeland--are relations of fraternity that have remained and will remain so (?above everything else).

Regarding the ruling clique in Aden and its perpetration of the heinous crime unprecedented in the history of international relations, the prime minister said that we have asserted our stand through our official statements and letters to the Arab kings and presidents.

Regarding the great support with which the election of Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih as president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces has received, the prime minister said in a statement to the SAUDI NEWS AGENCY [SNA] correspondent in San'a': The great popular support with which the election of brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by the Constituent People's Assembly has been received is unequivocal evidence that his wisdom and courage are known by our people through the past positions he has taken, with the aim of preserving the accomplishments and gains of the immortal 26 September revolution and the aspirations of the corrective 13 June movement.

Talking about the YAR's relations with the sisterly and friendly states and these states' stand toward our national causes, brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani pointed out that these relations are characterized by their positive aspects and that the YAR proceeds in its relations with the brothers and friends from clear standpoints and specific principles, directed toward noble aims and reciprocal benefits on the basis of mutual respect, as well as respect for national sovereignty, sacred creed and dignity. He further said that our relations with most brother states are good.

In his statement, the prime minister pointed out that the cooperation between us and the various fraternal and friendly states in different fields clearly indicates the depth and strength of these relations [words indistinct] the ideal principles of our policy which is well-defined.

Regarding the YAR's relations with the brothers in Saudi Arabia, brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani praised these relations and described them as strong and vital. He added that the committees of coordination between the two countries are working to bolster cooperation. He also expressed confidence that the YAR's relations with Saudi Arabia will develop further and prosper in a manner that serves the hopes and supreme interests of our two fraternal peoples.

In reply to a question on Red Sea security, the prime minister stressed the YAR's firm and principled stand that calls for making the Red Sea area a region of peace and security, keeping it away from the influence of the (?international) currents and plans which do not serve the national interests of the area's peoples.

Regarding the stand the Arab states can take toward Zionist intransigence, brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani said: The path we believe the Arab states should follow is that of working seriously for the restoration of Arab solidarity. The YAR was the first to take the initiative of conveying this standpoint to all Arab brothers in their various capitals. He further added: The YAR has spared no effort to continue work with all means in this regard. Through the Arab Solidarity Committee, of which the YAR is a member, the YAR hopes that Arab solidarity will be achieved and restored to the Arab brothers.

Regarding the 5-year development plan, the prime minister said: We have been able to draw up a 5-year plan, based on principles of scientific planning and programming, in order to achieve the hopes and aspirations of our people for development which will enable them to cope with the spirit of the age on the basis of well-defined principles.

AS-SADAT MEETS PARTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NC152132Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 Aug 78 NC

[Text] At 2115 today President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat met with the members of the provisional Constituent Committee of the National Democratic Party and the People's Assembly members who have applied to join the party. The closed meeting, which was held in the Blue Hall of the San Stefano Hotel in Alexandria, was also attended by Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and members of the party's General Secretariat.

Addresses Committee

NC160630Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2330 GMT 15 Aug 78 NC

[Text] During his meeting this evening with the members of the provisional Constituent Committee of the National Democratic Party in Alexandria, President Anwar as-Sadat spoke about the general principles of democratic practice. He said: In the past there has been a crisis of democratic conduct and a crisis of ethics. As a party we must lay down a basis for democratic practice--a basis that we should agree upon so that the leaders of this party will set an example for the people.

He added: I trust all the members of the Constituent Committee equally. We must, with love, rise above everything. Let love be the pivot of all our actions. The president urged the Constituent Committee members to seek to restore to our society the village traditions and the values of loyalty, love and faith, and to preserve all our sanctities and traditions.

He added: I call on you to demonstrate the revolutionary purity which magnificently characterized the National Party in the days of Mustafa Kamil and Muhammad Farid. We must now set an example in revolutionary purity. The president then spoke about the role played by the People's Assembly members since 15 May and the attitude of these members. He said: The National Party which is in the process of being formed now was in fact formed on 15 May 1971, but it was not organized. He added: The principles which the national party must uphold are:

1. Building up the Egyptian human as the prime task in our society;

2. Advocating democratic socialism, stemming from our traditions, creeds and soil;

3. Providing security for every citizen and insuring his right to a pension in cases of illness, disability, old age and death;

4. Erecting a state of faith and science on the grounds that these two foundations constitute the cornerstone of Egyptian society in the coming phase.

President Anwar as-Sadat announced that Vice President Husni Mubarak will temporarily act as the deputy leader of the National Democratic Party until the party elections are held throughout the republic.

The provisional Constituent Committee of the National Democratic Party held its first meeting yesterday at the San Stefano Hotel under the chairmanship of its secretary general, Fikri Makram 'Ubayd.

During the meeting, which lasted over 4 hours, it was decided to form a committee of experts from members of the People's Assembly and the Constituent Committee to study the means of amending the constitution with a view to defining the role of the press as a fourth estate in the coming phase. The said committee is scheduled to complete its work tomorrow. It is comprised of Hafiz Badawi as rapporteur; and journalists' doyan 'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal, Cairo University President Sufi Abu Talib, Dr Muhammad Kamil Layla and counselor Muhammad Yusuf Nassar as members.

KAMIL MEETS AUSTRALIAN, YUGOSLAV, FRENCH ENVOYS

NC151553Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today held several contacts to brief friendly countries about Egypt's views on the situation in the Middle East and the efforts being exerted to find a just solution to the crisis.

Foreign Minister Kamil met with the ambassador of Australia. He also met with the Ambassador of Yugoslavia and discussed with him the results of the nonalined foreign ministers conference with regard to international problems, foremost of which is the Middle East crisis.

His excellency also met with the French charge d'affaires and exchanged views with him on the visit which President Anwar as-Sadat will pay to France while on his way to Camp David.

AL-AKHBAR'S GHUNAYM ON EGYPT ATTENDING CAMP DAVID

NC160850Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Aug 78 NC

["Listeners' Questions" Program]

[Excerpt] Why has Egypt agreed to attend the Camp David conference in which U.S. President Carter, Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin will participate?

Muhammad Mustafa Ghunaym, deputy chief editor of AL-AKHBAR, is here with us to answer this question. [begin recording]

President as-Sadat's acceptance of U.S. President Jimmy Carter's invitation to hold a tripartite meeting--which will bring these two men together with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin on 5 September--is primarily owing to the desire to show that Egypt is ready to exert any effort and proceed to the end for the sake of peace. This is the basic objective of the historic initiative which the president made around the end of last year by making his daring visit to Jerusalem.

It is true that Israel has as yet furnished no evidence that a change has occurred in its outdated thinking and policies, which are aimed at aborting every serious and sincere effort to achieve peace in the Middle East. Begin's government has not so far presented anything to indicate any new elements contravening the obdurate policy which Begin's government insists on pursuing toward the constructive peace efforts which Egypt has exerted and is still exerting. It also true that the tripartite conference recently convened at Leeds Castle, England, among the Egyptian foreign minister, the U.S. secretary of state and the Israeli foreign minister, has again shown that there is nothing new in Israel's position which justifies holding any serious, high-level talks with the Israeli leaders. This is what Egypt expected, even before the conference began its meetings.

Nevertheless, Egypt accepted being a party to this conference in order to refute the Israeli maneuvers portraying Egypt as rejecting peace efforts and in order to again expose to the world the reality of Israel's stance. No one any longer entertains any doubts about the objectives and motives of this stance.

Before going to the Leeds Castle conference, and although Egypt had expected the conference to fail, Egypt announced that it was merely going to Leeds Castle because U.S. President Jimmy Carter had called for the conference. Furthermore, this man's actions have proved that he is sincerely seeking to restore peace to the sensitive Middle East.

It is with the same spirit of seeking peace and the sincere desire to make the October War really the last war in the area that Egypt has accepted U.S. President Carter's call for a tripartite conference in Camp David to bring As-Sadat, Begin and Carter together personally for the first time.

Egypt has agreed to attend this conference for several reasons. Perhaps the primary reason is that by calling for this conference and through his determination to attend the As-Sadat-Begin meetings personally, President Carter has clearly shown beyond any doubt his great interest in making the peace efforts initiated by As-Sadat successful and in preventing Israel from foiling these efforts. He also shows the attention Washington is devoting to the continuation of the momentum of the talks out of Washington's belief that stoppage or failure of the talks will threaten extreme danger of unknown dimensions.

Meanwhile, all the indications are that the United States has recently become determined to play its real role as a full partner in the issue instead of contenting itself with the role of mediator or mailman shuttling among the various parties. We have continuously called on Washington to embark on this action in view of Washington's distinct position in this matter, whether it be with regard to its comprehensive aid to Israel or the special relationship binding Washington and Israel. This is in addition to the danger which threatens the U.S. interests in the area if the peace efforts run into stumbling blocks and if the situation in the area erupts again.

By accepting participation in the Camp David meetings, Egypt is furnishing the world with new evidence about the fact that it does not reject any serious effort toward peace. Furthermore, Egypt sees these meetings as the last opportunity for exposing Israel's real intentions concerning peace. This is because these intentions will be put to the test in the sight and hearing of the whole world.

The Camp David meetings, which we hope will succeed, will not be the end of the road in the peace efforts. They will figure, however, as yet another link in the chain of these efforts--and the whole world stands witness to the extent of Egypt's sincere desire to lead these efforts to a successful culmination which will yield good and security for the whole of mankind. [end recording]

PRIME MINISTER RETURNS FROM SYRIAN VISIT

NC151628Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss returned this afternoon from his visit to Syria after holding friendly and positive talks. He also held clear and frank discussions regarding possible political and security solutions to the Lebanese crisis.

At 1730 Prime Minister al-Huss arrived at the Presidential Palace in Ba'abda and briefed President Ilyas Sarkis on the outcome of his talks in Latakia and Damascus. During the meeting, which lasted for half an hour, an assessment was made of the results. After the meeting the prime minister left the Ba'abda Palace for his home in Ad-Dawha.

SYRIA REPORTEDLY REJECTS IDEA OF MAKING BEIRUT OPEN CITY

NC151949Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1915 GMT 15 Aug 78 NC

[Text] A government source told a Voice of Lebanon correspondent this evening that Syrian officials have informed Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss that Syria refuses to discuss the idea of making Beirut an open city. The government source said that this idea, which was raised by some Lebanese politicians, is a U.S.-Saudi idea and Syria rejects it (?in principle).

AMBASSADOR TO UNITED NATIONS MEETS WITH SARKIS

NC151646Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Aug 78 NC

[Text] The Lebanese permanent representative to the United Nations, Ghassan Tuwayni, arrived in Beirut from New York this evening and went to the Presidential Palace, where he was received by President Ilyas Sarkis.

Ambassador Tuwayni briefed President Sarkis on the outcome of his diplomatic efforts in New York to prompt Israel to stop placing obstacles in the way of the army's advance into the south.

Security Council Meeting Possible

NC151954Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpt] The Lebanese permanent representative at the United Nations, Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni, has declared that there is still a possibility of calling a Security Council meeting to discuss the situation in southern Lebanon. However, he said, a number of steps must precede that. What is important is implementation, and not just to turn the Security Council into a forum for speeches. Ambassador Tuwayni was speaking to correspondents upon leaving the B'abda Palace this evening, where he met with President Sarkis to brief him on the results of his diplomatic consultations at the United Nations.

Asked whether there are new solutions concerning the military unit in Kawkaba, Ambassador Tuwayni said: Kawkaba and Tibnin are not Stalingrad. The south is important--in fact, it is very important--as the cause of peace in Lebanon or as the cause of a new war in Lebanon and beyond. Therefore, Ambassador Tuwayni said, our main concern in the implementation of Security Council Resolution No 425 is to achieve peace in Lebanon.

UNIFIL COMMAND TO DISCUSS ARMY UNIT IN SOUTH

NC151147Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Aug 78 NC

[Text] The situation in southern Lebanon, particularly the position of the Lebanese military unit which is still being held up in the grouping station in Kawkaba, will be the subject of new contacts between the responsible official Lebanese circles and the international parties interested in this subject; foremost among these are the United Nations and the United States.

President Sarkis discussed this subject in detail yesterday with the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, Richard Parker, in the presence of the minister of foreign affairs and defense, Fu'ad Butrus. A meeting is scheduled to be held today in the town of Marj 'Uyun, which will be attended by officers from the UNIFIL Command. This meeting comes within the context of the UN interest in the subject of the Lebanese Army unit which is being held up in Kawkaba, and the UN's energetic efforts to remove the difficulties and obstacles facing this unit's advance to its command headquarters in the town of Tibnin.

INA: DEATH TOLL IN BEIRUT EXPLOSION RISES

JN151248Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1225 GMT 15 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 15 August--The number of victims of the explosion which destroyed an entire nine-story building near the Arab University of Beirut last Sunday has risen to 127 dead. A total of 17 new bodies were removed today from beneath the debris. They include 3 bodies of members of the Palestine Liberation Front, which suffered 40 victims in the explosion.

The INA correspondent reports that the bodies, which have begun to decompose, are obstructing the work of the rescue teams--work which has been going on continuously for the last 48 hours. So far no information has been released on the results of the work of the committee formed to investigate the incident.

PALESTINIANS MOVE THEIR AMMUNITION FROM BEIRUT AREAS

NC151235Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 15 Aug 78 NC

[Text] There have been repeated reports today that ammunition and weapons from three Palestinian depots were moved at 0300 today from the Al-Fakihani and Arab University areas in accordance with a request made by [PLO Executive Committee Chairman] Yasir 'Arafat. Strict security measures were taken during the removal operations.

Fatah elements were seen today digging tunnels and building barricades in Sabra and Shatila.

Meanwhile, a number of armed persons were seen today in the village of Bhamdun and in the 'Alayh district. Distant intermittent explosions were heard last night in that area. Some sources say that these were connected with clashes between the Syrian Nationalists and the Socialist Party.

VOICE OF LEBANON: ARMED BARRICADES SEEN IN DAHR AL-AHMAR

NC151224Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 15 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Armed Palestinian and communist barricades have been seen in the Dahr al-Ahmar area in the south in the wake of the armed clashes between a UNIFIL Fijian unit and some communists who were attempting to infiltrate into the Al-Qulaylah area.

AL-HUSS, AL-HALABI STATEMENTS IN SYRIA REPORTED

NC151915Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Aug 78 NC

[Text] We will now hear the statement made by Prime Minister al-Huss to two correspondents of the national news agency, Samir Mansur and Ramzy Mansur, prior to his departure from the Humaymim airport in Latakia for Damascus. [begin recording]

The talks were comprehensive and dealt with the various subjects and issues that concern both countries and which are of interest to the Lebanese people at this stage. There is no need for me to affirm that the atmosphere of the talks was completely positive. The talks were extremely useful and fruitful. If I may be permitted to summarize the results of these talks in a short sentence, I would say that Syria is willing, as usual, to support the Lebanese authorities in all the positions which they might adopt.

[Question] In practice, Mr Prime Minister, has the visit elicited anything specific?

[Answer] Naturally, the visit had specific results which, we hope, will gradually bear fruit in the near future.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, will any measures be adopted immediately upon your return to Beirut in the wake of your talks with President al-Asad?

[Answer] There are arrangements and measures which must be taken in the future. However, some time will be needed before the results will become apparent.

[Question] Did the talks include the possibility of sending a force [words indistinct]?

[Answer] The discussions dealt, in a general way, with the position of the military force stationed in the south. An exchange of views was made concerning this matter. However, in the long run the situation can be handled only by the Lebanese authorities. This matter will be discussed by the Lebanese Government in order to adopt the appropriate position concerning it. [end recording]

The Syrian prime minister, Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, then made the following statement: [begin recording]

Any act which will lead to a disruption of the march of security in Lebanon we can only interpret as being against the Lebanese people first and foremost; against the two countries, Syria and Lebanon; against the march of security; and, in the long run, against the Arab march. Any provocation will serve neither the Lebanese interest nor the Arab interest. It is certain to serve interests other than Arab interests. To be more precise, it will serve Israel's interests.

[Question] Concerning the army force stationed in Kawkaba, will there be Lebanese-Syrian coordination on the diplomatic level, specifically on the level of calling for the convocation of the Security Council?

[Answer] [words indistinct] There is coordination between us and our brother officials in Lebanon. The solutions will be determined by the circumstances and the phase we are passing through.

Further Report

NC1520152Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpts] Before leaving the Humaymim airport for Damascas en route to Lebanon, Prime Minister al-Huss made the following statement:

The talks were comprehensive and covered all topics and issues of interest to both countries.

He was asked if the measures to be taken include declaring Beirut an open city. He answered: This is one of the issues which may be discussed at all levels in the future. However, this has not been decided.

Prime Minister al-Huss was asked: Have you discussed the question of the advancement of the army unit now in Kawkaba to the border areas? He answered: The question of the military force now in the south was discussed, among other things. Naturally, it is for the Lebanese authorities to take a position in this connection. However, this was an opportunity for discussing this matter with the Syrian brothers, headed by President Hafiz al-Asad, and to exchange views and information in this connection.

Answering a question about the Lebanese Government's position on the question of asking the Security Council to turn the UN emergency force into a strike force to facilitate the entry of the army unit into the south, he said: This matter requires diplomatic preparations and contacts on a large scale before we can adopt a decision on it.

The newsmen then addressed their questions to Syrian Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi. The first question was: Whenever the situation in Lebanon deteriorates, attention is focused on the wisdom of the officials in Syria and Lebanon. Can you reassure the public that matters are moving toward relaxation and settlement of all the issues raised in your talks with Prime Minister al-Huss?

Prime Minister al-Halabi replied: The answer is really that the talks between the officials of the two countries are always pervaded by fraternity and mutual understanding, and conviction that the relations between the two countries and the continuity of these relations stem from the fact that the two countries are fraternal. Add to this the fact that here in this country we are interested in the security and safety of Lebanon. This is why I am always optimistic about these meetings and the continuation of these meetings, which are producing results and confronting all the plots which are continuing and which we expect at present and in the future.

Prime Minister al-Halabi was asked: Concerning the army force now in Kawkaba, will there be any Syrian-Lebanese coordination at the international level, particularly in relation to seeking a meeting of the Security Council?

He answered: We are always exchanging views. We cannot predict solutions. There is coordination between us and our brother officials in Lebanon. The solutions will be determined by the circumstances and the phase we are passing through.

He was asked: As far as Syrian-Lebanese relations are concerned, do you support turning Beirut into an open and disarmed city? He said: This matter concerns our Lebanese brothers.

He was asked: If the situation in certain areas in Lebanon remains as it is, there are some who would want the deterrent forces out of Lebanon. What is your position regarding the renewal of the deterrent forces mandate?

He replied: The duties of the deterrent forces are known and specific. These duties are to consolidate security and stability in Lebanon. The deterrent forces are military forces at the disposal of the legitimate authorities. Accordingly, these authorities are free to use these forces to establish security and reassurance in Lebanon.

Turning to Prime Minister al-Huss, the reporters asked: Will the specific arrangements you spoke of include assembling the deterrent forces, or will there be a new plan for the deployment of the deterrent forces in Lebanon? He said: I have nothing to say in this connection at this point.

He was asked: Did your discussions cover the possibility of sending an army force via Az-Zahrani? He said: We had a general discussion regarding the military unit in the south. We exchanged views on this matter. However, the matter can only be ultimately determined by the Lebanese authorities. The government will discuss this issue with a view to adopting an appropriate position.

AL-ASAD, PREMIER AL-HUSS CONCLUDE TALKS IN LATAKIA

JN151541Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Aug 78 JN

[Text] At 1200 today the official talks between President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss were concluded in Latakia. These talks dealt with developments in Lebanon and a discussion was held on the possible political and security solutions in the near and distant future. The talks also stressed the special relations between the two fraternal countries and the need to continue consolidating them. Viewpoints regarding all these topics were identical.

ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL RIYAD ARRIVES

JN151317Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad arrived in Damascus this morning. 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, minister of state for foreign affairs, led those who received Riyad at Damascus International Airport.

In a statement on arrival Mahmud Riyad said that his current tour aims at holding consultations on the different issues to be raised at the coming meetings of the Arab League Council beginning in Khartoum on 12 September. Mahmud Riyad concluded his statement by saying that his next stop will be in Amman.

SYRIAN-JORDANIAN AGRICULTURAL TALKS HELD

JN151554Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Aug 78 JN

[Text] The Syrian and Jordanian sides today discussed the procedures for coordination and integration between the two countries in the fields of agriculture and food supply. They also discussed ways of increasing the exchange and marketing of agricultural and food products between them. Participating in the talks were the ministers of agriculture and supply as well as a number of experts from the two countries.

LIBYA

MINUTES SIGNED ON LIBYAN-DPRK JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING

LD160904Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 16 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Pyongyang--The day before yesterday the Libyan and Korean sides signed the minutes of agreement on the first meeting of the joint committee of the Jamahiriyah and the DPRK. This took place on the occasion of the visit to the DPRK by Staff Major Jallud between 11 and 14 August. The minutes dealt with several spheres of economic, technical and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

An agreement on cooperation in the cultural, scientific, educational, technical, information and sports fields was also signed. It was signed, on behalf of the Libyan Arab side, by Engineer Muhammad al-Marqush, secretary of housing, and on behalf of the Korean side by the foreign minister.

MAURITANIA

MOROCCAN ARMY UNITS TO BEGIN 'STRATEGIC PULLBACK'

PA151455Y Paris AFP in English 1438 GMT 15 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 15 Aug (AFP)--Several Moroccan Army units will shortly make a "strategic pullback" from the port city of Nouadhibou, Mauritania's largest economic complex, situated 400 kms (240 miles) north of here, informed sources said today. This latest Moroccan pullback, which followed the one at Akjoujt, 250 kms (150 miles) north of here, announced last Friday, was said to have been decided at a recent meeting of the joint Moroccan-Mauritanian Defense High Committee. The Moroccan units were to be pulled back to the country's northern towns which have been most affected by the guerrilla war waged by Saharan nationalists of the Algerian-backed POLISARIO Front.

The sources said that the army outposts protecting the iron ore railway line linking Nouadhibou to the mining town of Zouerate would be bolstered by Moroccan troops, along with Zouerate itself and the town of Kakhla (formerly Villa Cisneros).

Some 10,000 Moroccan troops have been stationed in Mauritania (including 1,200 in Nouadhibou and 600 in Akjoujt) since the start of the conflict.

LIBYAN DELEGATION ARRIVES IN NOUAKCHOTT

LD152138Y Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 15 Aug 78 LD

[Text] An important delegation of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah led by Muhammad 'Ali at-Tabu, secretary of agriculture, and including Muhammad az-Zarruq Rajab, secretary of the Treasury, arrived in Nouakchott this afternoon. The Libyan delegation was welcomed at the airport by Maj Moulaye Ould Boukreiss, member of the Military Committee of National Recovery; Ba Oumar, minister of rural development, and Mohamed el Moktar Ould Zamel, minister of planning and mines. [passage indistinct]

TUNISIA

L'HUMANITE, OTHER PAPERS SCORED FOR ANTI-TUNISIA CAMPAIGN

LD151429Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 8 Aug 78 pp 1, 2 LD

[Aziz Chahed article: "Who Pays and Why?"]

[Text] For many months a well-orchestrated press campaign has been waged against Tunisia. Irritated, even disgusted Tunisians have wondered on several occasions what lay behind this relentless attack.

In a most difficult world situation Tunisia has persistently tried to mitigate the consequences of the storm as much as possible. Therefore it has devoted its efforts to the task of improving the economic and social situation in the country. Indeed, the results achieved soon showed that the majority of the Tunisian people had made the right choice--a fully expanding economy, a solid currency, an inflation kept within reasonable limits and increasing efforts to achieve greater social justice.

However, all this has been ignored and disregarded.

A certain section of the press where denigration and fiction reign supreme mentions Tunisia solely to falsify its image and spread malevolent gossip. This kind of sensational press is now becoming increasingly popular. Whenever Tunisia is discussed, professional liars or men thirsting for publicity are called upon to write. People such as "Drouzon," "Jallud" and other illustrious unknowns have been trying to make a name for themselves at the expense of Tunisia and the Tunisians. These latter-day missionaries preach revolution and are on the lookout for anything sensational. They have offered their services to denigrate, protest against and even condemn...Tunisia, of course.

Scorning objectivity and decency, certain newspapers have made their columns available to hack writers. Going even as far as forgetting about their own country and their responsibilities vis-a-vis their people, these sorcerer's apprentices are now trying to sow the seeds of division and hate in Tunisia. Irrespective of the ideology he supports and of his place of residence, any Tunisian will say "no" to them. Aware of the external world and having all sources of information at his disposal, he is able to separate the wheat from the chaff.

It is not surprising that L'HUMANITE, a Stalinist newspaper par excellence, opens its columns to concoctions and denigration. It has always done this. Tunisians know this better than anyone else. It is no longer necessary to explain that its attitude toward the Arab world in general and Tunisia in particular has been unfriendly.

That newspaper, which has proved hostile to militants from its own party who have now found refuge in other newspapers in order to be able to express their views, now wants to use Tunisia to appease other dissidents, excuse other trials and conceal other truths.

This new farce is no longer believed. L'HUMANITE can show how talented it is when it comes to publishing truncated information and articles written to order. Its 29 July edition informs the Tunisian people about their country's price on the tendentious publicity market: 1.46 million old francs have been offered to LE MONDE and 820,000 old francs to LE MATIN by Libyan trade union leader Jallud to publish even by way of advertising items which could damage Tunisia's image.

However, L'HUMANITE feels that it should publish Jallud's documents as a "piece of information." On payment of what sum of money? Considering the Stalinists' liking for secrecy, it would be difficult to get to know this. However, is it not enough to know who pays and why?

Tunisia, however, is ready to accept any challenge. It will continue to advance along the path leading to progress, freedom and social justice.

Neither any incidental difficulty nor any heterogeneous coalition can dissuade it from pursuing its ambitions.

BEGIN RECOUNTS EVENTS LEADING TO SETTLEMENTS DECISION

TA151217Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1155 GMT 15 Aug 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee held a political discussion today with the participation of Prime Minister Begin. At the end of this meeting the prime minister referred to the affair of the new settlements in the Jordan Valley and our correspondent, Zevi Lidar, brings an excerpt from the prime minister's remarks. [begin recording]

[Begin] The Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs decided on the establishment of five Nahal settlements in the Jordan Valley. This is acceptable to all schools of thought, including that of the Alinement. We made the decision on 28 June, 7 weeks before the decision to hold the Camp David summit. Nobody then dreamed about such a conference. Three weeks ago the agriculture minister, who is in charge of these affairs, met with representatives of the settlement movements. Again, this was about 10 days before Vance's visit, and again nothing was known at that time about the tripartite meeting. When the idea of the tripartite summit came up and we had to publicize the decision [about the settlements], we naturally decided in the cabinet yesterday not to continue the preparations but to wait until after the summit, for purely psychological reasons. As I said in English and as I write to the secretary of state today, I believe that all three countries, the United States, Egypt and we want the conference to succeed. [end recording]

More on Begin Remarks

TA151308Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 15 Aug 78 TA

[Text] Let us now go over to the prime minister's office for the briefing given to newsmen about the controversy on the settlements in the Jordan. [begin recording]

[Begin] I got a cable from the secretary of state in very friendly terms before the decision taken yesterday by the cabinet, and I answered immediately. The cable is now on the way to Washington explaining the facts. Some here and in the United States claimed, I quote, that Israel tried to torpedo the summit meeting. Well, I do not think I have ever heard a more distorting statement. The decision taken by our Defense Council was on the 28th of June, 7 weeks before anyone even dreamt about such a summit meeting. My friend General Sharon, the minister for agriculture, met with the potential settlers 3 weeks ago; again, more than 10 days before the visit of Secretary Vance to our country, when he brought to me the handwritten message by President Carter concerning the tripartite meeting at Camp Cavid. He [Sharon] was absolutely empowered by the decision of our security committee to do so, claiming he even did not yet start at all. Certainly when we heard that there is the tripartite summit meeting it did not even occur to us to go on with establishing these Nahal settlements [if] only for psychological reasons. There is not any other reason, because it is a group of our army, Nahal, our soldiers, and these are security outposts which we are, under any circumstances and by all opinions, entitled to establish, and in accordance with the opinions of the opposition as well. I can say I believe that all three countries, the United States, Egypt and Israel, are interested in the success of that tripartite meeting. But I would like to add that none is more interested in this succeeds than Israel.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Begin, the Defense Committee is just putting up military settlements?

[Begin] yes.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Sharon met with civilian settlers. Do you have....

[Begin--interrupting] No. No. It is a mistake. He met with the so-called settlement movements. They have the Nahal groups under their supervision. The youth movements of seven connected political parties organized the so-called Nahal. Nahal in English means the Pioneering Fighting Youth and they are an integral part of our army. There are also parachutists there; they are good fighters. Those young people, garrison boys, settle on the land in security outposts, of which we have scores throughout the land, and all over. Nobody ever said a word about it of objection. No other preparations were made at all until this very day, and we did not start with them because we want a psychologically good atmosphere for the deliberations at Camp David.

[Unidentified correspondent] [several words indistinct] Camp David summit will affect the final government decision on the settlements.

[Begin] The summit--will affect? I cannot say anything. No, there is no connection whatsoever. [end recording]

MAPAM Reaction

TA151015Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Aug 78 p 1 TA

[Text] The settlement affair is a deception of the public by the government. The cabinet's decision today [14 Aug] to postpone deliberations on the settlement issue until after the Camp David summit changes nothing, since the damage has already been done. This was stated in MAPAM's reaction which was released for publication yesterday.

Here is the announcement in full:

After repeated statements, it has transpired that the denials by cabinet ministers about the decision to establish settlements in the West Bank were a lie. They were aimed at keeping the public unaware and at preventing the expected protest. This will affect the way Israeli citizens view denials coming from the cabinet in the future.

As for the matter itself, MAPAM believes that the settlement operation on the eve of the Camp David summit is an attempt to cause the failure of the talks even before they have begun. This episode is a repeat of the settlement affair in Sinai during the talks of the Israeli-Egyptian Political Committee in Jerusalem. Today's cabinet statement on the postponement of deliberations on the settlement issue until after the Camp David summit changes nothing since the damage has already been done and the government has not learned its lesson from past mistakes.

Sharon Settlement Role

TA151225Y Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Aug 78 p 11 TA

[Yehuda Litani commentary: "Sharon's Demographic Strip"]

[Excerpts] Over the past year Minister Sharon has put his stamp on settlements, especially in the area of Judaea and Samaria. Despite all the abuse that has been heaped on him by his critics, including ministers, over the "dummy settlements" and the towers sprouting from the ground, over the past year Arik Sharon has given settlement in the West Bank a new momentum the results of which will still be felt in years to come. Beside the failures (Mizpe Jericho, Yattir, An-Nabi Salih) there have been successes (Qarne Shomron), and for he who declared last week that "my system is a foothold in every place" and who is known for his obstinacy and persistence it is the final result that counts and not the failures on the way.

Just as during the Yom Kippur War he attacked the "seam" between the two Egyptian armies, so on the settlement issue the minister of agriculture wishes to attack the "seams" between the institutions, between the government ministries and between coalition and opposition. At this moment, publicity and public relations are less important to Ari'el Sharon than the facts in the field. Before the Likud came to power there was total coordination and cooperation between the Settlement Department in the Jewish Agency (and with respect to settlement in the territories--the Settlement Department in the Zionist Federation which is, in fact, one of the branches of the Settlement Department of the Jewish Agency) and the government and the minister responsible on its behalf for settlement in the territories.

After the Likud came to power and Ari'el Sharon was appointed minister responsible for settlements in the occupied territories, the relationship of coordination and cooperation of the past became a relationship of orders being given (by Sharon) and their being implemented (by the Settlement Department). The head of the Jewish Agency Settlement Department, Professor Ra'anan Weiss, who until the 1977 overthrow was regarded as the supreme authority on the settlement issue, has now become an implementer of orders and even his implementation authorities are slowly but surely being taken from him and his department.

Members of the "Gush Emunim" Secretariat like Minister Sharon and willingly cooperate with him. They regard him as one of their own. At a meeting of the secretariat a few months ago, Rabbi Levinger mentioned Ari'el Sharon as being the only one of all the cabinet ministers in whom trust could be placed. It appears that the chain of settlements that have been set up during the past year in the West Bank are the result of the fruitful cooperation between "Gush Emunim" and Minister Sharon.

Members of "Gush Emunim" gain magical access to maps which are out of bounds to any other citizen. One version has it that members of the Israel Lands Authority and the military government have cooperated with members of the "Gush" on several occasions. Senior officials in the Lands Authority and officers in the military government "volunteered" to help the members of "Gush Emunim" and show them on maps where in the West Bank government land was situated and where private land was situated, where it was possible to expropriate land and where it was undesirable to establish settlements (IDF training grounds).

In a tour of the new settlements for correspondents that the minister of agriculture conducted last week, he mentioned that he would soon submit proposals to the cabinet to expand all existing settlements in Samaria by adding several hundred families to these settlements. Arik Sharon, who said that he belongs to the school of "first of all establish a presence," is diligently acting in this direction and anyone who doesn't believe this had better take a trip and see the new settlements that have sprouted in the center of Samaria.

Thousands of tons of rock have been blasted through complicated engineering techniques to establish the first urban center to be set up, probably in Samaria [as published]. According to Minister Sharon, several score families will soon be added to the flourishing settlement of Qarne Shomron, which was established, as it were, in a military base (who remembers this today?) and the same goes for other settlements in Samaria.

By attacking the weak spots, the "seams" mentioned earlier, Sharon intends to "move" the settlement presently located near the village of Masha, which is close to the green line. In theory, this will simply be a "move" of an existing settlement--in fact, a totally new settlement will be established on government-owned land nearby which had caught Minister Sharon's eye several months ago. Arik Sharon knows that the government, in the present situation, a short time before the important meeting at Camp David, cannot decide on the establishment of a new settlement, and he is therefore "moving" or expanding settlements.

Three settlements by the name of Ma'ale Ha'adumim have been established by the system of "moving"--the original settlement which was established under pressure from Gush Emunim during the days of the Alinement government as a "work camp" (ironically, today the residents of Ma'ale Ha'adumim refuse to allow Jewish industrial workers to set up shop there); a settlement by the name of Mizpe Jericho which was set up as a "neighborhood," as it were, of Ma'ale Ha'adumim, despite the distance of 8 km between Mizpe Jericho and Ma'ale Ha'adumim; and the infrastructure for a third settlement called Ma'ale Ha'adumim that is now being set up by Housing Ministry workers. This will be what is defined as the 'permanent settlement" of Ma'ale Ha'adumim some distance from the village of Az-Zahiriyah in the approaches to Jerusalem.

What will happen to the temporary settlement of Ma'ale Ha'adumim whose residents will soon move to the permanent settlement? Maybe it will be populated by a new "Gush Emunim" nucleus which will then move to another permanent settlement, and so on.

The position of Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, who almost resigned from office while he was in the United States over the work of one tractor in An-Nabi Salih, is especially surprising. Today, a few weeks before the important meeting at Camp David, not one tractor but scores of tractors and bulldozers are at work at several locations in Judaea and Samaria "expanding" and "moving."

If the cabinet approves the decision of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs, more tractors and bulldozers will soon be moved to the Jordan Valley to establish the five footholds the committee decided upon. It will be very difficult to establish new footholds in the Jordan Valley without the knowledge and total agreement of the defense minister, who is a member of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs, and it is obvious that a Nahal foothold would have to be approved by him.

In recent weeks the press has made public that the Ministry of Defense has decided to cease dealing with settlements in the West Bank with the exception of Nahal footholds. Despite the fact that the defense minister has a settlement plan of his own (he supports the establishment of six large urban centers in western Samaria and in greater Jerusalem), it does not appear that he is presently campaigning for it with all his might. With the Defense Ministry decision not to deal with settlements any longer, the arena has been totally left open to the initiatives and actions of Minister Ari'el Sharon.

The weak voice of the DMC coalition faction, whose declared positions are totally opposed to Sharon's actions; the paralysis which has taken hold of the Liberal Party, which in the past at least stood by moderate positions; and mainly the surprising silence of the Alinement in view of the wide settlement activity in Samaria--an area in which the Alinement has always opposed settlement--all these point to the fact that Minister Sharon has succeeded in throwing sand in the eyes of those who oppose his recent settlement activities up to the publication of the plan to establish the five new footholds.

Yosi Sarid is the only Knesset member who raised his voice after he was informed of the intention to establish five new footholds in the Jordan Valley. MK Sarid maintained that there was a tendency to curbing the media on this issue.

Even at this stage, settlement experts and opponents of Minister Sharon are treating Sharon's settlement activities lightly. They claim that the settlements are small and isolated and that there is no certainty that additional settlers will be attracted to them. Minister Sharon pays no attention to this criticism and continues to establish settlements and pave roads. Time is passing and he maintains that what is not done now will never be done.

KNESSET SECURITY COMMITTEE DISCUSSES CAMP DAVID TALKS

TA151546Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 15 Aug 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] Our Knesset correspondent reports on the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee session. [begin recording]

[Correspondent] Contrary to forecasts, the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee's session, which lasted approximately 3 hours, was calm. Yesterday's cabinet decision to freeze preparations for establishing the Jordan Valley footholds in fact took the wind out of the sails of the Alinement and the DMC, and after the prime minister had explained the issue, no criticism could be heard on the part of the representatives of these factions.

Begin also showed the members of the committee the handwritten letter of invitation to the Camp David summit sent by President Carter. In the letter, the U.S. President also calls on Israel and Egypt to consider--in anticipation of the summit meeting--new ways for reaching an arrangement. The prime minister also reported on the Israeli preparations for the Camp David summit, which include setting up a special team which will prepare the proper documents and will decide on reactions to possible proposals which might be raised at the summit.

At today's session, the Alinement spokesmen presented their well-known thesis that at the tripartite meeting a declaration of principles should be reached with Egypt with respect to Judaea and Samaria which will open the door for a bilateral agreement with the Egyptians, MK Shim'on Peres said after the meeting.

[Peres] I think that we must return to the declration of principles, because it involves the best opportunity for reaching any kind of agreement.

[Correspondent] The DMC representatives, for their part, did not object to the cabinet's peace plan as being the basis for negotiations, but called on the cabinet to think at the same time about new ideas. MK Amnon Rubinstein said:

[Rubinstein] In my opinion the cabinet's peace plan is still a possible basis [for negotiations], if it is taken seriously; it can be a possible basis for negotiations for peace. However, it is not the sole plan, and what the U.S. President said in his letter to the prime minister concerning the search for additional ways [to reach an agreement], in my opinion this is valid and the cabinet ought to accept this. [end recording]

BEGIN SAYS NO NEW GOVERNMENT PLAN FOR SUMMIT

TA151309Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 15 Aug 78 TA

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Begin said that there is no room to talk of a new government plan preparatory to the Camp David summit. The existing plans are good and these will be the ones to be brought to the conference. Nevertheless, a team of experts is now discussing Israel's answers to the questions and proposals that may be raised in the course of the conference. Mr Begin was answering questions by our correspondent, Zevi Lidar, at the end of the meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee held in Begin's office.

SPECIAL LIKUD MEETING TO DISCUSS CAMP DAVID TALKS

TA151804Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 15 Aug 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The Likud [Knesset] faction will convene tomorrow afternoon for a political debate, in which the prime minister will participate, regarding the summit talks at Camp David. In anticipation of next week's cabinet session, which will deal with the issue, the ministers were asked to prepare themselves thoroughly and examine all the possible alternatives.

Minister Yizhaq Moda'i said that this time the cabinet must make decisions which will serve the team which will leave for Camp David to conduct the talks there. Minister Moda'i said this during a tour of the Sinai oilfields for the group of political correspondents in Tel Aviv. Our correspondent Sara Frankel reports: [begin recording]

In order to attain a peace agreement, the Egyptians will have to give up things in the Sinai that Israel cannot give up. Minister Moda'i listed several examples, such as: Israel cannot give up its responsibility for the fate of its citizens, and by this is not necessarily meant the explanatory [divre hahesber] parts of the autonomy plan.

Among the possible alternatives is that of exchanging territories. Similarly, Israel cannot give up control over certain air space and what he called an alarm space [which will give Israel warning time in case of attack]. In that context he mentioned the possibility of demilitarization. In any case, the talk is about several alternatives which the cabinet will discuss.

This time, Minister Moda'i said, the cabinet will hold a thorough and prolonged debate which will focus on a clearly defined issue: the directives for the team headed by the prime minister which will leave for Camp David in order to conduct the talks there. In his opinion, the team should be limited [as to its composition].

In preparation for the session each of the ministers was given background material which includes the positions and views that were presented on various occasions by the three participants: Israel, Egypt and the United States. The ministers are well aware of the fact that they have at their disposal unlimited time during the debate and it is expected that eacn minister will do his homework properly and perhaps even make proposals or express opinions on operational [operativim] issues.

Minister Moda'i said that during the Leeds Castle talks alternatives to the cabinet's autonomy plan were raised, and they included an Israeli announcement that if a plan for a territorial partition were presented, it would be discussed; in other words, it would not be rejected outright. He maintained that the cabinet will also have to draw up a plan for a situation in which the other party--the Egyptian side--actually raises the possibility of a territorial partition, including an exchange of territories.

At the same time, Minister Moda'i thinks that the basic and most realistic plan for attaining peace with Egypt is Israel's peace plan. This plan is good also as far as Egypt is concerned, he says. Minister Moda'i himself intends to raise his own ideas during the debate.

In reply to a question, Moda'i said that if we had known about the talks to be held at Camp David, we would not have decided to go ahead with the five settlements, and a decision on them should not have been made. However, we did not know. In principle, he personally is in favor of settlements, but he admitted that the cabinet's decision to freeze them now was a good one. He went on to say, with respect to the Vienna document and in reply to a question, that the Vienna document was unacceptable to the cabinet and unacceptable to him; this is a foggy document subject to interpretations and consequently it is dangerous. [end recording]

LEBANON SEEKS TO MOVE TROOPS TO SOUTH BY HELICOPTER

TA152000Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Aug 78 TA

[Text] Lebanon wants Israel to promise to use its influence on the commanders of the Christian enclave not to attack helicopters in which Lebanese soldiers are to be carried southward. This is reported by our correspondent on Arab affairs, Ehud Ya'ari.

The plan to use helicopters was discussed today at a meeting between the commander of the UN forces, General Erskine, and the commander of the northern command, Maj Gen Avigdor Ben-Gal. Erskine's deputy, General Cuq, leaves for Beirut tomorrow to discuss this issue.

Our correspondent remarks that the plan is that the helicopters will use a route which circumvents terrorist concentrations. The Lebanese are also prepared to forego immediately stationing their soldiers in the town of Tibnin and are prepared to have the helicopters land in the village of (Randuriyya), north of it.

Israel has promised to examine the Lebanese request to carry out the helicopter plan. The Lebanese, for their part, have complained to the United States that Israel has been letting up on its handling of the affair. Tonight, too, they repeated their announcement that they will persist in exerting pressure so that the initial group of soldiers can enter southern Lebanon.

INTERIOR MINISTRY TO CHECK FOR GERMAN TERRORIST

TA160814Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 16 Aug 78 TA

[Text] The Interior Ministry is looking into reports that a German terrorist, Hans Yoachim Klein, is presently in Israel hiding in a Kibbutz in the Negev under the aegis of the Israeli Secret Service.

This report was published this morning by the French newspaper L'AURORE. The report said that Israel was protecting Klein in return for information he was divulging on the training of Arab terrorists in south Yemen.

Our correspondent, Shemu'el Tal, reports that the Interior Ministry has said that at present it knows absolutely nothing about the presence of a German terrorist in Israel. However, it is looking into the accuracy of the report.

BRIEFS

POLITICAL POLLS NOT BROADCAST--The radio and television networks will not carry the results of public opinion polls or reports on the popularity ratings of personalities and parties. This decision has been approved by the broadcasting authority's director general. From now on, the radio and television will only carry political data published by the Central Bureau of Statistics and polls conducted by the broadcasting authority itself. [Tel Aviv HAZOFE in Hebrew 9 Aug 78 p 6 TA]

GAZA DRUG CAMPAIGN--The Gaza district police are stepping up their fight against drug trafficking in the Gaza Strip. The spokesman for the Gaza police told our correspondent, Bassam Ja'bar, that a special unit to combat drugs trafficking was set up recently and that it prevented three drug deals involving hundreds of thousands of Israeli pounds from being carried out. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Aug 78 TA]

BANGLADESH

BANGLADESH, INDIA SIGN MEMORANDUM ON GOODS IN TRANSIT

BK140934Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 14 Aug 78 BK

[Text] Bangladesh and India today signed in Dacca a memorandum of understanding providing for expeditious and smooth movement of traffic in transit through railways, thus facilitating Nepal's overland trade with Bangladesh. The memorandum of understanding lays down the procedures for transit through the agreed route of (?Biral) in Bangladesh and Radhikapur in India and for related customs and other matters. It was agreed by both sides that the procedures, as applicable under the protocol and memorandum to the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Transit, 1978, shall apply to Nepal's traffic in transit in the territory of India. Similarly, the procedures envisaged in the protocol to the Bangladesh-Nepal Transit Agreement, 1976, shall apply to Nepal's traffic in transit in the territory of Bangladesh.

The agreement also provides for periodic consultations between officials of the two governments to insure smooth and speedy movements of goods in transit. The memorandum of understanding will come into force on the 15th of next month. A joint Indo-Bangladesh press statement said the talks were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

INDIA

DESAI ADDRESSES NATION ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

BK151140Y Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 0205 GMT 15 Aug 78 BK

[Prime Minister Morarji Desai's address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort in New Delhi on 15 Aug--live]

[Text] Brothers and sisters: Sixteen months have passed since the people handed over responsibility to the Janata Party to govern the country. Last year on this day and from this place I spoke to you. I mentioned the tasks to be accomplished and the difficulties being faced by the nation. During this past year, that is, from last 15 August, many things have happened and many international and national developments have taken place.

Immediate tasks such as the restoration of civil liberties, freedom of the press and independence of the judiciary have already been accomplished and today this situation is being maintained. I believe this freedom will last forever. It must last forever for the people to be fearless, strong, diligent and patriotic in their conduct. We must get rid of ills inherited from past centuries and work hard if we are to achieve our former status as the world's strongest, most prosperous and contented nation, rich in culture and moving forward. It is generally easy to cultivate bad habits, but it is very difficult to get rid of them. But I have no doubt that we can get rid of them quickly. We should not rest until we accomplish our goal, and above all we should march ahead together to accomplish our tasks.

It is quite clear that the situation has improved in some respects. Even so, loud complaints are being heard that prices are rising, that there is unemployment, that the law and order situation has deteriorated and that restlessness has increased. The only people who complain are those trying to worsen the situation instead of helping to rectify it. This is my experience, but on this occasion I do not want to enter into controversies and conflicts which further complicate our problems.

One thing is quite clear: The price situation has not worsened. On the other hand, inflation, which existed during the last decade, has been arrested. In some respects, prices have even fallen. This is also clear. We want the situation to improve and prices of all commodities to be reduced. This will also benefit producers as higher costs will reduce consumption and thus production. That is why our actions in all sectors are directed to benefit all sections of the people. The key to all this lies in increasing production and production capacity, and we are currently engaged in this task.

Last year we achieved a growth rate of 5 percent as compared to the average annual rate of 2.5 percent during the last decade. But we do not want to greatly publicize this. Unless everyone is satisfied, real progress cannot be achieved. But it is a fact that progress has been made and is being made despite some obstacles.

For 2 years dissent was silenced and the people's voice was stifled. It was natural that the people would ventilate their feelings when freedom was restored. This is the reason for strikes at a few places in industrial sectors. It is necessary to solve all of these problems, but solutions should above all be in the large national interest. We cannot benefit one section of society at the cost of other sections. We have to explain this to everyone, for we can only move ahead in an atmosphere of understanding.

Some people have tried to create disturbances at several places in order to defame the government. It is the duty of the government to maintain law and order and we are trying to do so. But we cannot adopt authoritarian ways. We should try to enforce rules according to law and with the people's cooperation. This is the path we have adopted. Some tangible results have been obtained in this respect. However, I understand that these results have not benefited all sections of society and not everyone is satisfied. Such thoughts often afflict the people's minds and create conflicts, but it is also the duty of all sections of the society not to create confusion.

Unless there is peace and stability in the country and everybody insures that his actions will not hurt his neighbors' and country's interests, the progress we desire to achieve in all fields will not be possible. I believe that such an atmosphere will be created by all of us so that we can move ahead with our jobs and achieve results.

In certain matters our ills are [words indistinct]. Atrocities against harijans [untouchables] are a matter of shame and stigma on us and the nation. I have no doubt about this. Such century-old ills and ignorance of society could be eradicated by the people working together. I also have no doubt that the persons trying to exploit this situation would also be dealt with sternly.

Take the example of incidents that took place near my residence the day before yesterday. (?You are all aware of it). It is a shameful act on the part of all those who participated. I have no doubt that unless they are taught a lesson, they will continue to indulge in such activity.

They came to meet me and assured me that they will do everything peacefully and will not cause any trouble. They remained peaceful at the beginning and some of the representatives of that party met me. They said that the land which had been distributed to the harijans and poor people was a part of the grassland and, therefore, should be taken back from them and returned to grassland. These lands were distributed in 1970 and there still is enough land for grassland. I do not agree that with the distribution of this land hardship has come to anyone. Their contention was that this land should not have been given to the harijans.

Some thousands of people came from distant villages and assembled before the residence a few days ago and decided to create trouble. In fact, they did the same. I told them that I could not accept their arguments. The land was given to the harijans; it will remain theirs and nobody can take it back. This is a final decision.

Then they asked why should the harijans be given special favors? The land should be equally distributed to all poor people whether they are harijans, brahmins, rajputs or so forth. I replied that our constitution provides special concessions for the harijans because they have been subjected to injustice for centuries. We and our whole society, and not the harijans, should be blamed for their remaining underprivileged. To correct that mistake and to bring them up to the level of other citizens, it is necessary to extend them special privileges. They said: No, then you have to amend the constitution. I asked: What are you saying? Then they angrily said that they would definitely insure this. I told them that if this was their final decision and if they were bent upon fighting to leave, for I had nothing more to discuss with them.

They went out and instigated the assembled people with sticks in their hands and started making noise. They threw stones and broke roadside lights. They damaged several things and even attacked the policemen. The police were forced to take steps against them. When teargas failed, the police resorted to baton charges. They did not fire on them because I did not want this to happen. But if a crowd is bent upon indulging in violence, hurts others and refuses to listen to anyone, then reluctantly firing must be resorted to for the purpose of bringing it under control. They should know that no one likes shooting. It only brings regrets and sorrow.

I believe that unless the people firmly deplore such people and their actions and support the government's firm steps to curb them and unless the people are strict with them, their activity will continue. It is essential to face them squarely and I believe the people will continue to cooperate with us in this. All this requires an atmosphere of fearlessness and discipline and keeping in mind the national interests.

Our work in the current situation is of the utmost importance and should be completed quickly. That is why we are trying to streamline the administration. I believe that the manner in which the administrative machinery was corrupted [during the emergency] has no parallel in the world. I do not blame the administrative machinery, only those who controlled it. Those who obeyed government orders should not be hauled up for it; they were afraid to refuse orders to do wrong things. Their refusal could have cost them their jobs. It is not easy to risk one's job in this country. We have not reached the stage of progress where one can easily switch jobs. That is why people become restless.

We will have to evolve a force that can not corrupt the administrative machinery in the future. We are trying to strengthen the administrative machinery and make it fearless, and I am happy we are receiving cooperation from everyone in this respect. Unless there is a clean administration and the people feel that it is there to serve them, not to order them, the people will not be satisfied. That is why we are trying to move the administration in that direction, and I firmly believe we will be fully supported in this move.

There are some other ills in our country. Hindu-Moslem clashes have been reported from some places. We must eliminate this also. We can claim order in the country only when there is not a single source of instability. For centuries our nation has had a tradition of respect for all religions, but it was spoiled during the British rule. We also picked up some bad habits which to this day hound us. The people must work together to eliminate these habits.

I frequently hold discussions with the opposition to deal with elements who are trying to create an atmosphere of violence in the country. I am glad the opposition leaders view this task seriously. But sometimes the opposition has political compulsions which I understand. We should strengthen this process [of parleys with the opposition].

Democracy functions when the opposition is as important as the ruling party. Therefore, we do not want to weaken the opposition. It should be strengthened but it should keep in mind the nation's interests. I acknowledge that the opposition has the nation's interests in mind, but some habits formed earlier were a little difficult to reclaim. But the mistakes are being corrected and I believe we will succeed. I am grateful to the opposition for its cooperation.

You are aware that our position has improved considerably in foreign countries, especially in neighboring states. India's prestige has grown everywhere. But I do not know whether opposition members feel ashamed when they imply or say that this government or the Janata government has sold out the country to foreign powers. This is being said today by those same people who once sold out the country. I do not know how they can say these things.

The country's prestige has risen in the community of nations, and we deal with other nations as equals. I do not go anywhere to seek aid but to maintain our relations, fraternity and friendship. Why should we ask for aid from others? I have no doubt that the country's pride and strength will be enhanced if we stand on our own feet and march ahead with our own resources. We should be grateful when any friendly nation helps us, but we should not ask for it. In return for the aid given us we should meet the urgent requirements of the needy nations. Thus, we are working today in cooperation with all nonalined nations and extending aid to them wherever we can faithfully and in a friendly spirit. This has improved our relations with Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Burma, Afghanistan and Iran. Even our relations with Pakistan have improved.

As acknowledged by everyone, I have no doubt that India's relations with its neighbors are better today than they have been in the past 30 years. I also do not have the slightest doubt that these relations will be further improved and become totally friendly. I believe true friendship can be established when there is free movement of people and free trade between neighboring states. We are putting more stress on it and I believe this is our responsibility. I am happy we are obtaining good cooperation from these nations and I am grateful to them. I am confident our relations with Pakistan will also improve.

Our relations with China had deteriorated considerably. We are proceeding in the direction of improving our ties with China. The Chinese have also expressed the same desire and we welcome it. We hope these ties will improve. We are moving in this direction confident that you have the same desire.

Whatever restlessness exists it cannot be removed without discipline. I have complete faith in discipline and the purity of means, as Mahatma Gandhi taught us, and I would not compromise them in any manner, with anyone, for any price. The nation can be strengthened only by discipline and purity of means and this is the way of the Janata Party.

Some people say the Janata Party is becoming weak but that is not true. This is being said by people who are trying to weaken it. But I have no doubt the party will emerge stronger from it and I seek your cooperation and blessings in this regard. Thank you.

DEFENSE MINISTER RAM SPEAKS TO ARMED FORCES

BK151559Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Aug 78 BK

[Text] In a message to the defense forces on independence day the defense minister, Mr Jagjivan Ram, said the strengthening of the armed forces is essential in the present environment. Steps have been taken to equip them with the latest weapons and equipment. In a broadcast from the Delhi station of All-India Radio, he referred to the recent measures taken to improve the service conditions of the defense personnel and said he will always try to further improve their service conditions. The defense minister said India is proud of the armed forces.

PAKISTAN

LIBYA'S JALLUD ARRIVES IN ISLAMABAD ON 3-DAY VISIT

BK151645Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Aug 78 BK

[Excerpts] The Libyan vice president [title as received], Mr 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, was accorded a warm reception when he arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a 3-day official visit to Pakistan. As the Libyan vice president and Mrs Jallud alighted from their aircraft, they were received by the chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Begum Ziual Haq. Bouquets were presented to the distinguished guests by two children and a 19-gun salute was fired while contingents of the three armed services formed a guard of honor. The national anthems of the two countries were played.

Soon after his arrival, the Libyan vice president, accompanied by the Libyan foreign minister, called on President Fazal Elahi Choudhry. [Words indistinct] and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. The chief martial law administrator was also present on the occasion.

The Libyan delegation, led by the vice president, includes the foreign minister and [words indistinct].

The Radio Pakistan representative says formal talks between the Libyan vice president and the chief martial law administrator will open tomorrow morning. He will leave for Karachi on Thursday where he will visit the Qaide Azam Jinnah Monument and Karachi shipyard. The acting governor of Sind will hold a reception for the distinguished guests.

Meets With Haq

BK160900Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 16 Aug 78 BK

[Text] Formal talks between the visiting Libyan vice president [title as received], Mr 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, and the chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, began in Rawalpindi this morning.

The chief martial law administrator was assisted in the talks by Federal Minister for Finance and Planning Mr Ghulam Ishaque Khan; minister for establishment and Kashmir affairs, Lt Gen F.A. Chishti; Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr Agha Shahi and other high officials. The Libyan vice president was assisted by Foreign Minister Mr 'Abd al-Salam at-Turayki and other high Libyan officials.

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